



MEDIA ADVISORY

“Prison expansion is tough on taxpayers, not on crime” – press conference calling on Premier Ford to stop prison construction and invest in measures that actually make communities safer to be held on October 22nd

WHAT?

The Coalition Against Proposed Prisons is holding a press conference calling on Premier Ford and his government to abandon their expensive and ineffective prison expansion plans, and to invest more in evidence-based initiatives that actually make communities safer and save taxpayers' money.

WHY?

Since taking office in 2018, the Ford government has announced plans to build three new prisons, expand eight existing ones, and convert one youth detention centre into a women's jail. Together, these infrastructure projects will add 1,601 beds to Ontario's provincial jail system at a cost of at least \$2.7 billion for construction alone if they're all built. That amounts to an average cost of \$1.7 million per prison bed built. If filled, the annual operational costs associated with these new prison beds, each costing \$133,955 per day to operate, would be approximately \$210 million on top of the more than \$1.25 billion it already costs to run Ontario's provincial jail system every year, which mostly imprisons people who are awaiting trial of which many will not be found guilty of an offence. In response to this expensive, ineffective and outdated approach to community safety, over 50 groups and organizations have endorsed the new #NOPE | No Ontario Prison Expansion campaign and are calling on the province to abandon its prison expansion plans that are tough on taxpayers, not on crime. The campaign signatories know we can do better than slogans like “jail, not bail” and are calling upon the Ford government to build communities, not cages through greater investments in social supports such as supportive and transitional housing, healthcare, mental health care, income supports, education and other evidence-based measures that are cheaper and more effective at preventing lawbreaking and keeping us safe.

WHO?

Laura Beach, PhD – Carleton University
Yusuf Faqiri – Justice for Soli
Les Harper – Plains Cree Knowledge Keeper and Harm Reduction Advocate
Nicole Myers, PhD – Queen's University
Justin Piché, PhD – University of Ottawa
Pam Reaño – Disability Justice Network of Ontario
Vanessa – Tracking (In)Justice
Andrea Vásquez Jiménez – Policing-Free Schools

WHEN?

Wednesday, October 22, 2025
10:00am-11:00am (EDT)

WHERE?

Journalists: livestream via Zoom (event link available upon request)
General public: livestream via <https://www.youtube.com/@cappontario>

CONTACT – MEDIA EVENT ACCESS AND INTERVIEW COORDINATION (English and French)

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